

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-10. (canceled)

11. (previously presented) An exhaust gas cleaning catalyst comprises a tetragonal-system composite oxide which is produced through a neutralization coprecipitation-drying-firing method and which is represented by A_2BO_4 (wherein A represents at least one member selected from the group consisting of Ca, Sr, and Ba; and B represents at least one member selected from the group consisting of Mn, Fe, Ti, Sn, and V), and a noble metal component which is present in the tetragonal-system composite oxide as a solid solution or which is carried by the composite oxide.

12-14. (canceled)

15. (previously presented) An exhaust gas cleaning catalyst as described in claim 11, wherein the tetragonal-system composite oxide is Ca_2MnO_4 .

16-18. (canceled)

19. (previously presented) An exhaust gas cleaning catalyst as described in claim 11, wherein the noble metal component is rhodium, palladium, or platinum.

20-24. (canceled)

25. (previously presented) An exhaust gas cleaning catalyst as described in claim 11, wherein the inorganic refractory oxide is Al_2O_3 , SiO_2 , ZrO_2 , CeO_2 , CeO_2 - ZrO_2 , composite oxide, or CeO_2 - ZrO_2 - Al_2O_3 composite oxide.

26-28. (canceled)

29. (previously presented) An exhaust gas cleaning catalyst as described in claim 11, wherein the tetragonal-system composite oxide which is produced through a neutralization coprecipitation-drying-firing method and which is represented by A_2BO_4 is obtained by treating, with an aqueous ammonium carbonate solution, an aqueous solution containing (a) at least one member selected from the group consisting of nitrates of Ca, Sr, or Ba and (b) at least one member selected from the group consisting of nitrates of Mn, Fe, Ti, Sn, or V, to thereby co-precipitate a co-precipitation product including a precursor; subjecting the co-precipitation product to filtration; drying the filtered product; and firing the dried product at 800 to 1,450°C.

30-34. (canceled)